CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 25 MAY 1989 AT 10:00 A.M.
IN BC-110, SGW CAMPUS

ATTENDANCE: Present were:

C.H. Langford (Chair), V. Baba, P. Fazio, D. Gold, G. Johns, M. Kusy, B. MacKay, R.H. Pallen, J. Segovia, C.Y. Suen, M.N.S. Swamy, A.J. Williams, S. Bulzan (Secretary)

Absent with regrets:

R. Rudin

Absent:

B. Jenkins, K. Lipke, A. Mohammad, E. Reyes

Guests:

H. Kisilevsky, J. McKay

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED & DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

SRC-89-03-02-D66, (revised)	RESEARCH CENTRES - NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES
SRC-89-04-06-D67	MEMO TO SRC RE: INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT MADE TO SENATE BY C.H. LANGFORD (3 MARCH 1989)
SRC-89-04-06-D68	ENVIRONMENTALLY-RELATED RESEARCH AND OPPORTUNITIES (LISTING OF CONCORDIA PROJECTS PREPARED FOR 'LA FONDATION QUEBECOISE EN ENVIRONNEMENT')
SRC-89-05-25-D69	1989-1990 PROVISIONAL OPERATING BUDGET
SRC-89-05-25-D70	CENTRE EN CALCUL MATHEMATIQUE ALGEBRIQUE

Dr. C.H. Langford occupied the Chair.

Dr. J. Segovia, the Acting Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research in the Faculty of Commerce and Administration, was introduced to the Committee.

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The revised document `Research Centres - Needs and Opportunities' was distributed at the meeting.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.1 It was moved and seconded (Kusy, Johns) and unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Senate Research Committee meeting of 2 March 1989 be approved.

II. CHAIR'S REMARKS

A. Report on the Environmental Sub-Committee (SRC-89-04-06-D68)

2.1 The list prepared for the `Fondation Québécoise en Environnement' was circulated to the Committee. The Chair stated that this list of existing projects and projections was prepared with the aim of raising provincial funding for environmental research.

2.2 Dr. Pallen noted that the project leader for number six on the first page should read P. Albert, not P. Anderson.

2.3 The Chair asked that this list not be circulated as it represents only a `wish list' and not an existing reality.

B. Update on Networks of Centres of Excellence Program

2.1 The Chair announced that the Transport, Fluid Dynamics, and Neurobiology groups each had received a site visit.

2.2 The Chair stated that the Scientific Committees will be meeting in June and a final decision will be made sometime in August.

C. Strategy for Development of Research Funding

2.1 The Chair stated that the document `An Exploration of the Factors Limiting Growth of Research Funding at Concordia' (SRC-88-12-01-D59, revised) was circulated to faculties for comment. This item will be put back on the Agenda as soon as comments are received.

D. SSHRC's Reply to Concordia Invitation

2.1 The Chair announced that Mme Paule Leduc, SSHRC's President, acknowledged receipt of his invitation to visit Concordia although no dates were mentioned.

2.2 The Chair suggested that we should contact her office once more for possible dates.

E. Director of Research Services - A.J. Williams

2.1 Ms. Williams indicated that the faculty profiles are still being conducted and a few hundred faculty members thus far have been interviewed.

2.2 It was announced that 48 SSHRC applications had been submitted and 22 grants were awarded. Ms. Williams stated that SSHRC is planning to merge the General Research Grant and Travel Grant programs. In the SSHRC Strategic Program, the `Socialization of Children' theme has been dropped.

2.3 Ms. Williams announced that there has been an 8.3% increase over the previous year for NSERC. It was also announced that Concordia is the only university in Quebec without an NSERC Industrial Chair.

2.4 All FCAR results will be approved on 26 May 1989 and will be released by Monday, 29 May. In the `Nouveaux Chercheurs' program, 28 were integrated into teams.

2.5 Ms. Williams discussed `Reach - 89', a six-week summer course designed to promote the Sciences to girls. This is a program co-sponsored by Engineering and Computer Science undergraduate students from Concordia and McGill.

2.6 The Public Relations Office and the Office of Research Services have recently compiled a directory of funded research activities at Concordia which will primarily be used for outside purposes. It is presently being circulated to Chairs and Deans for comments.

2.7 Ms. Williams announced that the deadline for FCAR applications to Quebec will be 1 October 1989. Applications must be in the Office of Research Services by mid-September.

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F. 2.1 The Chair announced that this is the last meeting he will be chairing. The Chair indicated that he will be available to the Office of Research Services for the month of August.

2.2 The Chair stated that the business that had come before the Committee had been interesting and handled with much insight and enthusiasm by the SRC. The Chair thanked the Committee for their input and cooperation.

2.3 Dean Swamy indicated that this is the first time that such a Committee has been created and thanked the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, for his contribution.

III. SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH CENTRES

A. Research Centres - Needs and Opportunities (SRC-89-03-02-D66, revised)

3.1 The Chair stated that the revised document reflects a number of comments made by the Committee. Several members referred to the fact that there are a variety of administrative issues not addressed in the recommendations. The Chair indicated, however, that the SRC is limited in acting on those issues since they can be dealt with by Senate.

3.2 It was suggested that the phrase `research and other creative activity' be added to number 4 on page 3. The sentence was amended as follows: `Research and other creative activity, classroom teaching, graduate student supervision, and service to the community at large are the main functions of faculty.' Several other changes were also made to the document.

3.3 Dean Swamy suggested that the Chair of the Senate Research Committee, on behalf of the Committee, consult with the Chair of the Budget Committee. It was suggested that the Chair write a memo to the Vice-Rector, Finance indicating that this recommendation was made by the Senate Research Committee and thus item 3 on page 4 could be deleted.

3.4 The Committee was in agreement that this was a suitable way to proceed. The Chair invited the Committee to provide further comments to the document prior to it being forwarded to Senate's Steering Committee.

B. Introductory Statement to `Guidelines for Senate Evaluation of University Research Centres' (SRC-89-04-06-D67)

3.1 The Chair read the statement made at the Senate meeting of 3 March 1989 presenting the above-mentioned document.

IV. 1989-1990 PROVISIONAL OPERATING BUDGET (SRC-89-05-25-D69)

4.1 The Chair stated that this document had been approved by the Board of Governors at the meeting of 24 May 1989. He suggested that the Committee keep this document on file with those of the SRC for future reference.

V. CENTRE EN CALCUL MATHEMATIQUE ALGEBRIQUE (SRC-89-05-25-D70)

5.1 The Chair stated that FCAR had rejected funding a proposal for a Mathematics Centre last year. The group then shifted emphasis, collaborated with other groups and put together the proposal for the `Centre en Calcul Mathématique Algébrique'.

5.2 The Chair indicated that it is an interfaculty and interuniversity Centre already recognized by the Faculty of Arts and Science and is now seeking University support. The Faculty of Arts and Science requested that Senate examine the proposal who then requested that the SRC do so.

5.3 In responding to a question from the SRC regarding the rush to look at this proposal, the Chair responded that action from Senate will enhance the Centre's ability to obtain FCAR support.

5.4 Dr. Kisilevsky from the Mathematics Department and Dr. McKay from the Computer Science Department presented their proposal to the SRC. Dr. Kisilevsky explained that this is an interuniversity proposal involving Concordia, McGill and Laval, although the Centre will be located on the SGW campus at Concordia.

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5.5 It was agreed that the title should be 'Centre Interuniversitaire en Calcul Mathématique Algébrique'.

5.6 A motion to approve the proposal was presented.

All in favour. Motion carried.

5.7 Dr. Baba suggested that, in future, the Senate Research Committee may want to look at interfaculty/interuniversity Centres of which we now have three.

5.8 The Committee expressed a concern that everytime a group will present a proposal to the SRC, a Centre will develop. The Chair responded that the SRC will follow the Guidelines and review the proposal, not necessarily approve it.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Dr. Fazio circulated an article which appeared in the Toronto Globe and Mail comparing research in Canadian universities vs. research in American universities.

6.2 The Chair announced that there will be no Senate Research Committee meetings during the months of June, July and August.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.